Zohar Zoom Course

Daniel Matt

Several years ago, I completed an 18-year project of translating and annotating the Zohar (***The Zohar: Pritzker Edition***). I am now teaching **an ongoing online Zohar course.**

This course began in January 2019. Each series of the course consists of six weekly Zoom meetings, following which we take a break (usually for a couple weeks) and then continue with a new series (of six weekly meetings). In each series, we explore new passages, not repeating what has been covered. **Newcomers are welcome to join.** You can either sign up for one of the earlier series or the current one or the upcoming one. With Zohar, it doesn’t matter that much where you dive in! **Video recordings (of any one series) are available to anyone who registers (for that series)**.

We meet on **Tuesday evenings**. **Series 10** runs from **July 7 through August 11**.

**Series 11** runs from **September 1 through October 20** (**skipping September 22 and 29,** due to the Holidays).

The time of the weekly live Zoom meetings is **5 pm – 6:15 pm Pacific Time** (8 pm – 9:15 pm Eastern Time).

There are **two ways to participate in this course**. You can either **attend the live weekly meetings via Zoom or watch video recordings** of the meetings whenever you choose. As mentioned above, the video recordings (of any one series) are available to anyone who has registered (for that series).

Here are links to **3 free video recordings** from the first year of the course.

1. The first meeting of the entire course (January 16, 2019). Here I provide a brief **introduction to the Ten Sefirot**, and then we explore a passage near the beginning of the Zohar (1:1b), in The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 5-7.

<https://youtu.be/NNoZsOin5bg>

1. A passage from the Zohar about **meditating on a candle**:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N\_ayViclozCw33dILLBhz0E\_PtY3reyY/view

1. A passage from the Zohar on **inviting the Ushpizin (Guests) into the Sukkah**:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aOUpcX29QwiG1Y3JKVdUyBg2FrS\_e4l9/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aOUpcX29QwiG1Y3JKVdUyBg2FrS_e4l9/view?usp=sharing&fbclid=IwAR1Lp4B6rlGGUviAht3QZkdMIKLntv-llon8ukhKf1yawHy7toSsKK8wk6Y)

During the weekly meetings, the first hour is devoted to my teaching, following which there is time for questions. I have created **a Facebook group for the course (Zohar Zoom)**, which enables us to have online discussion throughout the week. You are welcome to join this group even if you are not registered for the course.

We are exploring **Volume 1 of *The Zohar: Pritzker Edition*. Participants should obtain this volume** and read Arthur Green’s introduction.

The course is open to anyone. There is no requirement for fluency in Hebrew or Aramaic or any extensive background in Jewish sources. At times, I refer to the Aramaic text, but the course is **intended especially for those who have not yet studied Zohar extensively** or even at all. Some participants follow along in **the original Aramaic** as we explore the English translation. Currently there are about 150 people in the course, including about 40 rabbis.

**To register, you simply pay for one of more series of the course. The cost of each series (of 6 weekly meetings) is on a sliding scale from $100 – $250.** You determine the exact amount (between $100 – $250), based on what you can afford.

**You can** **register by paying online via PayPal, Venmo (@Daniel-Matt), or Zelle, or by sending a check to my address (given at the end of this description).** **If you’re using my email address for paying online, it’s** [**danielcmatt@gmail.com**](mailto:danielcmatt@gmail.com)**).** Please make sure to **include my middle initial “c”** because otherwise your payment will go to someone else with a very similar gmail address!

If you pay by Venmo or Zelle, there is no fee. If you pay by PayPal, there may be a small fee (which, however, you can avoid; see below). For paying on PayPal: If you have a PayPal account, please select **“Sending to a friend” (not “Paying for an item or service”)**. If the default shows up as “Paying for an item or service,” you should be able to click on "Change" and change this to “Sending to a friend.” If you are paying from abroad, you may not have the option of “Sending to a friend.” Once you have paid, I will email you a link to the live weekly Zoom meetings and another link to the recordings.

When you pay on PayPal, please **include your email address** in the space for a “note” on the PayPal payment page and also **indicate which series** of the ongoing course you are paying for (first, second, etc., or several). **The cost (described above) is for each individual series of six weekly meetings.**

**If you do not have a PayPal account**, you can join PayPal easily. **If you do not wish to join PayPal**, you can email me, letting me know how much you will be paying for the series (between $100 - $250) and I will have PayPal send you a payment request. Click on “Pay as guest.” The name "Daniel Matt" will show up (without the initial "c," which is fine). The default may appear as **“Paying for an item or service,”** but if there is an option, click on "Change" and change this to **“Sending to a friend.”** You will be charged a small fee for paying by credit card. (You can avoid this by joining PayPal, for free, and linking your bank account, for free.) If paying from abroad, you may not have the option of “Sending to a friend.”

**If you prefer to pay by check**, you can email me (**danielcmatt@gmail.com**) and arrange to send a check. Please make sure to **include my middle initial “c”** because otherwise your email will go to someone else with a very similar gmail address. You can then mail your check (made out to Daniel Matt) to the address at the end of this description. Please **specify which series** of the course you are paying for (first, second, etc., or several). **The cost (described above) is for each individual series of six weekly meetings.**

I look forward to studying with you. Please share this announcement with anyone who might be interested.

**My mailing address**: Daniel Matt, 1013 Middlefield Rd., Berkeley, CA 94708  
 **My email**: [**danielcmatt@gmail.com**](mailto:danielcmatt@gmail.com)(Please include my middle initial “c”.)

This course description is also available on the website of Stanford University Press: www.sup.org/zohar/course